BEDOUINS MJ4
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the natural conditions of the environment, while in recent years it has also been an adjustment to economic circumstances.

The type of animal industry is determined by geographic factors and climatic conditions. In Iraq "in many parts of the alluvial lowlands, terrain is too soft and swampy, so that these animals (camels) are few outside the steppes."[1] Syria, especially the northern part, where rigorous winters frequently occur, is not an ideal region for camel-breeding while in parts of the Arabian desert sheep and goats cannot survive.

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2)439

The profitability and the increase of sheep and goat rearing is apparent from the following Transjordan export-trade figures:

	1937	1939	1941	1943
goats	6 988	7 637	32 638	31 041
sheep	12 064	37 896	56 735	52 487

While the camel trade declined, the sheep and goat business has been constantly rising.

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Mr. Epstein states[3] that sheep raising is more lucrative when practiced in permanent settlements which do not have to fear losses incurred as result of inter-tribal raiding. With the establishment of Public Security, however, raids have practically ceased, and the desert has been made secure. Today, throughout the area the animal industry is largely in the hands of the nomads.[4]

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1. Fisher, 1950, p. 362
2. Konikoff, 1946, p. 112 Table 16
3. Epstein, 1938, p. 228
4. In Iraq the breeding of sheep is practiced almost exclusively by the nomadic population, cf. Royal Institute, 1950, p. 259

At the beginning of 1929 practically the whole of the powerful 221
Ruala tribe entered Iraqi territory and encamped west of the
Wadim area. The Ruala were soon followed by the Sba'a, another
great tribe of the Aneseh. These unusual movements were caused
by lack of good grazing in Syria.[1]

Political boundary lines thus do not appear to have seriously 131
affected tribal mobility. On the contrary, public security has 221
enabled tribes to wander beyond their dirah into territories 459
where in the past they would not have dared to camp. The Trans-
jordanian tribes which, according to Epstein, were prevented from
migrating to the Wadi Sirhan may have feared to cross the border
line. It must be understood that states may sign agreements
which the tribes have no intention to observe.

It happened both before and after the establishment of 221
frontiers that Transjordan nomads were attacked and plundered 721
in their Wadi Sirhan grazing areas by hostile tribes of Hejaz.
Due to the frequency of such occurrences the tribes customarily
moving for the winter to the Wadi Sirhan were not forced by the
authorities to disarm because their lives and possessions could
not be protected by British and local forces while away from
Transjordan territory.[2]

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1. Report, 1929a, pp. 35-36
2. Report, 1930, p. 135

423 general. The idea of encouraging small and medium landholdings was incorporated in the new Syrian Constitution of 1950.

578 427 659 In the summer of 1951 violent clashes occurred in Syria between tenants and the agents of the big landlords, a development which testifies to the tenseness of the situation. Angry complaints were voiced in the Syrian Parliament against the government which does not challenge the encroachment on State Domains by the rich landowning families, and it was alleged that in the Jezirah tribal sheikhs connive with them by leasing away land on which the tribesmen enjoyed traditional grazing rights.[1]

Failure to make provisions for adequate conditions of land holding tends to retard tribal settlement. The enactment of sweeping land reforms, however, cannot be envisaged as long as the few, but powerful, land-owning families control the administration, and make even the allocation of State lands to small owners difficult.

Mandatory Palestine

162 361 Since World War I there have been no true Bedouin in Palestine, only semi-nomads. In the 1930's 47 981 out of the 66 551 nomads of Palestine[2] were encamped in the Beersheba district of the Negev, the rest scattered in the other parts of the country.

361 233 The tribes of Beersheba are the Terabin, Tayaha, Azazme,

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1. New York Times, August 13, 1951
2. Report of 1931 census of Palestine